

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## What Does a Bison Eat?

Bison are large, powerful animals that live in North America and parts of Europe. They are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. Their diet mainly consists of grasses, but they will also eat other plants like shrubs, leaves, and twigs when grass is scarce.

Bison are grazers, which means they spend most of their day eating. They use their strong, broad heads to push through snow during winter, helping them reach grass buried underneath. In the summer, they graze on lush green grasses found in prairies and meadows. A bison can consume around 24 pounds of plants each day! They have a special digestive system with multiple stomach chambers, allowing them to break down tough plant fibers and absorb nutrients effectively. This helps them survive in environments where food might be limited.

Bison play an important role in their ecosystem. As they graze, they help maintain healthy grasslands by preventing overgrowth and allowing new plants to grow. Their eating habits also create open spaces that benefit other wildlife, such as birds and small mammals.

Unlike carnivores that hunt for food, bison do not need to chase prey. Instead, they roam large areas in search of plants to eat. Their powerful bodies and thick fur protect them from cold weather, while their large size helps them stay safe from most predators.

Conservation efforts have helped protect bison habitats, ensuring these amazing animals have access to the plants they need to survive. Bison remain an essential part of grassland ecosystems today.